WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A photometer comprising:

a photometric sensor having a range corresponding to a field, said photometric sensor being two-dimensionally divided into plural areas and capable of metering each of the divided areas; and

an arithmetical operation circuit adapted to calculate one-dimensional data from the outputs of said photometric sensor to detect the maximum value of said one-dimensional data, and calculating an exposure compensation value in accordance with the detected maximum value of said one-dimensional data, as well as an average brightness value of the subject, and adding said exposure compensation value and said average brightness value to acquire a correct brightness value.

2. The photometer according to claim 1, wherein said arithmetical operation circuit changes an operation area for performing an arithmetical operation on the one-dimensional data in accordance with a principal subject position or a focus detected position within a screen in calculating said one-dimensional data from the outputs of said photometric sensor.

3. The photometer according to claim 1, wherein said arithmetical operation circuit calculates the average brightness value over the screen by varying the

weighting for each portion within the screen, and calculates the exposure compensation value in accordance with the detected maximum value of said one-dimensional data by changing a method for calculating the exposure compensation value in accordance with the position of the detected maximum value of said one-dimensional data within the screen and said weighting.

4. The photometer according to claim 1, wherein said one-dimensional data is obtained by adding and averaging plural pieces of brightness data divided in row and column direction within the screen in the row or column direction.

5. An image sensing device comprising:

a recording medium adapted to receive a light from the subject, and outputting the image information;

a photometric sensor having a range corresponding to a field, said photometric sensor being two-dimensionally divided into plural areas and capable of metering each of the divided areas;

an arithmetical operation circuit adapted to calculate one-dimensional data from the outputs of said photometric sensor to detect the maximum value of said one-dimensional data, and calculating an exposure compensation value in accordance with the detected maximum value of said one-dimensional data, as well as

an average brightness value of the subject, and adding said exposure compensation value and said average brightness value to acquire a correct brightness value; and

a light control device adapted to control the quantity of light arriving to said recording medium in accordance with said correct brightness value.

6. An image sensing device comprising:

a photoelectric conversion element adapted to receive a light from the field and outputting an electrical signal, said photoelectric conversion element being two-dimensionally divided into plural areas, and capable of outputting the electrical signal for each of the divided areas;

an arithmetical operation circuit adapted to calculate one-dimensional data from the outputs of said photoelectric conversion element to detect the maximum value of said one-dimensional data, and calculating an exposure compensation value in accordance with the detected maximum value of said one-dimensional data, as well as an average brightness value of the subject, and adding said exposure compensation value and said average brightness value to acquire a correct brightness value; and

a light control device adapted to control the quantity of light arriving to said photoelectric

conversion element in accordance with said correct brightness value.

7. A photometric method comprising:

a step of calculating one-dimensional data from the outputs of a photometric sensor having a range corresponding to a field, said photometric sensor being two-dimensionally divided into plural areas;

a step of detecting the maximum value of said calculated one-dimensional data;

a step of calculating an exposure compensation value in accordance with the detected maximum value of said one-dimensional data;

a step of calculating an average brightness value over the field; and

a step of adding said exposure compensation value and said average brightness value to acquire a correct brightness value.

8. The photometric method according to claim 7, wherein the step of calculating the one-dimensional data from the outputs of the photometric sensor comprises changing an operation area for calculating said one-dimensional data in accordance with a principal subject position or a focus detected position within the screen.

9. The photometric method according to claim 7, wherein the step of calculating the average brightness value over the screen comprises calculating the average brightness value over the screen by varying the weighting for each portion within the screen, and the step of calculating the exposure compensation value in accordance with the detected maximum value of the one-dimensional data comprises changing an operation method in accordance with the position of the detected maximum value of the detected one-dimensional data within the screen and said weighting.

10. The photometric method according to claim 7, wherein said one-dimensional data is obtained by adding and averaging the outputs of the photometric sensor, which is two-dimensionally divided into plural areas, in a row or column direction, an output being obtained for each area.

11. A program for causing a computer to perform a processing procedure for calculating a correct brightness value of a field to set up an incident light quantity upon a photoelectric conversion element, said program comprising:

a process of calculating one-dimensional data from the outputs of a photometric sensor having a range

corresponding to a field that is two-dimensionally divided into plural areas;

a process of detecting the maximum value of said calculated one-dimensional data;

a process of calculating an exposure compensation value in accordance with the detected maximum value of said one-dimensional data;

a process of calculating an average brightness value over the entire field; and

a process of adding said exposure compensation value and said average brightness value to acquire a correct brightness value of the subject.

12. A computer readable recording medium for recording the program according to claim 11.